

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 236973

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 236973

EXDIS TOSEC 234

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 14871 ACTION SECSTATE 26 OCTOBER.

QUOTE

S E C R E T ROME 14871

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECSTATE VISIT TO ROME--REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT

TO THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR VOLPE

1. I HAVE RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM GIANNI AGNELLI FOR AN APPOINTMENT WHILE YOU ARE IN ROME NOV. 4-5. THIS REQUEST WAS DELIVERED THROUGH DR. VITTORINO CHIUSANO, AGNELLI'S CLOSEST AND MOST TRUSTED BUSINESS AND POLITICAL ADVISOR. ALTHOUGH I WAS UNABLE TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH CHIUSANO DUE TO A CURRENT ILLNESS, I HAD MY SPECIAL ASSISTANT SEE HIM.

2. CHIUSANO REPORTED THAT AGNELLI IS EXTREMELY DESIROUS OF THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEETING WITH YOU. AS YOU RECALL, AGNELLI WAS TRYING TO ADJUST HIS U.S.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 236973

TRIP TO MEET YUOR WASHINGTON SCHEDULE IN OCTOBER BUT

CURRENT GOVERNMENT SITUATION AND FIAT LABOR PROBLEMS
PRECULDE HIS LEAVING ITALY. HE HOPED THAT AN
INITIAL AND BRIEF MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED WHILE YOU ARE
IN ROME, PREFERABLY AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 5.

3. PRINCIPALLY, AGNELLI WANTS TO RECEIVE FROM YOU A
RECONFIRMATION OF THE U.S. POSITION REGARDING ITALY.
AT A SECOND MEETING WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE LATER IN THE
MONTH TO WHICH AGNELLI WOULD AGREE TO TRAVEL (U.S. OR
ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE), HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS IN MORE
DETAIL MEASURES WHICH ITALY, WITH POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE
FROM U.S., COULD TAKE IN ORDER TO ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT HERE.

4. CHIUSANO SPEAKING PERSONALLY (BUT UNDOUBTEDLY SHARING
AGNELLI'S VIEW) ABOUT CURRENT CRISIS EXPRESSED OPINION
THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL THAT FANFANI COULD
SUCCESSFULLY RECONSTITUTE CENTER-LEFT. FURTHERMORE,
EVEN IF HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IT WOULD BE A GOVERNMENT THAT
WOULD DIE AS SOON AS IT WAS BORN. HE WAS EMPHATIC,
HOWEVER, IN STATING THAT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN ITALY
COULD PUT TOGETHER AN EFFECTIVE COALITION TO EXCLUDE THE
PCI FROM GOVERNMENT. THE MAJOR PROBLEM IS HOW TO INDUCE
ITALY'S DISPARATE POLITICAL ELEMENTS TO UNITE.

5. COMMENT: I RECOGNIZE THAT YOUR SCHEDULE FOR THIS
VISIT IS EXTREMELY TIGHT. HOWEVER, I THINK IT IS EX-
TREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU MEET WITH AGNELLI DURING THIS
TRIP. CRITICAL TIME HERE AND THIS IS HIS SECOND ATTEMPT
TO GET TOGETHER WITH YOU. AS I WROTE HAL SONNENFELDT FOR
YOUR INFORMATION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AGNELLI, AFTER
SEVERAL PRIVATE MEETINGS WHERE HE EXPRESSED ONLY VAGUE
GENERALITIES ON THE QUESTION OF PCI ENTRY INTO THE
GOVERNMENT, FINALLY EXPRESSED TO ME HIS CLEAR OPPOSITION
TO THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE. SUBSEQUENT TO THAT, IN HIS
CAPACITY AS HEAD OF CONFINDUSTRIA HE ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENT
TO THAT EFFECT. AT THE SAME TIME AGNELLI KNOWS ONLY TOO
WELL THE POLITICAL POWER WIELDED IN THIS COUNTRY BY THE
LEFT GENERALLY AND THE PCI PARTICULARLY. DUE TO LEFT'S
CONTROL OF LABOR, HE MUST BE VERY PRAGMATIC IN HIS POSITIONS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 236973

TO PROTECT HIS BUSINESS INTERESTS. HE IS ALL TOO WELL
AWARE THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE ANTI-COMMUNIST. AN
EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE MUST BE FORMED. ALTHOUGH
I AM UNCLEAR ON HIS MOTIVES (PATRIOTIC, PRAGMATIC OR PERSONAL
POWER), I AM CONVINCED HE IS DETERMINED TO SEE ITALY OUT OF
BLIND ALLEY IT APPEARS HEADED. IN MY VIEW, HE HAS THE POT-
ENTIAL FOR PLAYING EFFECTIVE ROLE IN ITALY'S CURRENT ECONOMIC
POLITICAL CRISIS AND WE SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

VOLPE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

SECRET

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